

WASHINGTON CRITIC

HAWKINS, COWEN & BASKETT.

943 D STREET NORTHWEST,
WASHINGTON, D. C.THE SUNDAY CRITIC.
Single copy, 2 cents.
One year, \$2.50.THE EVENING CRITIC.
Single copy, 2 cents.
One year, \$2.50.THE CRITIC.
Single copy, 2 cents.
One year, \$2.50.

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 28, 1890.

TO-NIGHT'S AMUSEMENTS.

Alhambra, Fifteenth and E streets—
Penny Davenport in "La Tosca".National, Pennsylvania avenue, near
fourteenth street—Francis Wilson in "The
Oolah".Rijns, Sixth street and Louisiana avenue—
The Follies.Academy, Eleventh and C streets—Rene
Santley Burlesque Company.Globe, Pennsylvania avenue, near Eleventh
street—Variety.

GOOD MEN, BE HUMANE.

The exposure of the methods in

vogue at the mail bag repair shops of

the United States Postoffice Department,

made in THE CRITIC yesterday,

gave publicity for the first time to a

system wrong in principle and oppressive

in practice. When the building on

O street was first rented and the plan

of sending all the torn and dilapidated

mail sacks of the postal service here to

be mended was put in operation, there

was a great flourish of official trumpets

over the "reform" and the "saving" it

would be to the Government. The

credit of this new arrangement was

claimed, justly we believe, for the new

Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

A superintendent of the shop was

brought on from Ohio. The work was

begin.

The result up to date seems to be to

involve the Government in a system

which looks like an ugly combination

of the "sweating system" of England

and the "pick-me" methods of the

Pennsylvania regions. As the shop

has been conducted it was rapidly be-

coming a public scandal. It is hoped

that THE CRITIC's exposure will remedy

the matter. It is not believed that Post-

master-General Wanamaker, or his Sec-

ond Assistant, Mr. Whitfield, or even

Captain Cullen, the superintendent, is

really cognizant of the full hardships to

which the employees of this shop are

subjected. THE CRITIC has no desire

to hold them responsible for the

wretched work-room provided, which

renders all who toil therein miserable,

or for the cruel regulation which re-

quires forty sacks to be repaired each

day by each worker. Nor yet perhaps

are they responsible for the fact that

the wages paid are so scanty. Yet, if

these things be not promptly remedied,

we shall be compelled to hold them

responsible. Mr. Wanamaker teaches a Sunday-

school class. Let him not forget the

story of the Samaritan. Mr. Whit-

field has the reputation of being a cool

fellow. Let him maintain it. Cap-

tain Cullen, we venture to say, will fol-

low the lead of his superiors in squelch-

ing the Siberian system which has ob-

tained to too great an extent in this

shop.

SUNDAY PRIVILEGES.

A public meeting is to be held at the

Rink on New York avenue to-night to

consider the Sunday-law question. Let

those who participate discuss the expedi-

ency of throwing open to the public

the Congressional Library, the Smith-

sonian Institution, the National and

Medical Museums, the Botanical Gar-

dens and the Corcoran Art Gallery, if

this last be amenable to statutory con-

trol in this matter.

Why would it be wrong to go to the

Congressional Library to read or study

on Sunday, when it would not be wrong

to do this in one's own library?

Why would it be wrong to go into the

Smithsonian Institution on Sunday and

examine the taxidermic products on ex-

hibition there when it is not wrong to

look upon the living specimens outside

those scientific walls?

Why is it wrong to enter the National

Museum on Sunday to inspect the won-

Machinery Hall, which, if anything,

should be eclipsed, might just as well

be put up on one of the floating sand-

bars of the Missouri. As for a tower

which shall humble the daring of

Eiffel—well, the Chicago people would

doubtless build it on barges and float it

up and down the lake shore.

FINE DEFINITIONS NEEDED.

A word about the bill which is to

put a stop to all Sunday labor, "except

works of necessity and mercy." What

are works of "necessity and mercy?"

Who is to be the judge? How is it to

be ascertained whether a particular

piece of work is exempted from the

penalty of the law? No tribunal is

provided for to determine beforehand

whether the work one feels called upon

to perform comes under the law or

forms an exception. The words used

shall make an omnibus phrase, which

shall include everything or nothing,

just as the courts may decide.

Would the railroads have to cease

running trains and the tramways cease

running cars on Sunday? Would the

hotels have to quit sending busses to

meet the trains? Frequently there is

no necessity for it. Could the owner

of a private turn-out use it on Sunday?

If so, could a peccunious person who

didn't own a private turn-out go to a

fivory stable and hire a turn-out? Could

a person walk abroad on Sunday with

a physician's certificate that it was

a matter of necessity or mercy?

The bill should go into details, and

tell precisely what we can and what we

cannot do.

DIVINE REVELATION.

One sentence of the little speech Mr.

Gladstone made to Dr. Talmage at

Hawarden is intended to give some

thinkers pause. "My only hope for

the world," said he, "is in bringing

the human mind into contact with

Divine revelation." Whether the distin-

guished statesman and philosopher

bases his expectation of human prog-

ress on revelation by belief, as con-

trasted with revelation through knowl-

edge, does not appear. Doubtless he

does. Many profound men who are

trying to guide human destiny in the

present age do. The Lichtenstein

group in Austria, Jules Simon and

the clerics in France, Bismarck in Ger-

many and Mr. Gladstone in England,

all see the need of revelation. Kant,

Leibnitz and Hegel are the parents of

socialistic Germany. Darwin, Huxley

and Spencer are the inspiration of the

English Demos, and the microbe hun-

ters of Paris are the apostles of ma-

terialism.

Far-seeing and sentimental men of

state realize how violent is the egotism

of scientific truth, and, if they could,

would make its discoverers be silent or

teach it in the closet. For this reason

it was that Machiavelli ever inclined

backward toward primitive conditions.

Rather than teach the operation of the

Supreme Intelligence in the vital cir-

culation of a plant, like Whewell,

they would impress Divine Truth

with the idealistic exaggerations

of Raphael and Angelo for all to

worship without question. Un-

happily for this acute conservatism in

statecraft, Divine revelation is no more

superstition to the control of man than

Divine conditions are. Man cannot at

will bring it into contact with the mind

of man. And it casts into contempt all

who aim to mediate between it and

human variety by conferring its bless-

ing arbitrarily. He whose soul seeks

God in the technical harmony of the

planets or the anatomy of a molecule

has a totally different sense of Divine

revelation from the mortal who finds it

in the murmuring of a prayer or the

adoration of a symbol; yet these two

farmers' alliance praying for the print-

ing of enough copies of the *Congress-*

ional Record to supply one copy to

every township in the United States.

Our esteemed contemporary seems on

the verge of a boom.

Mr. Chandler in the Senate presented

a petition from a citizen of Massachu-

setts praying for the erection of a statue

to General Grant—not to Matthew

Fountain Maury of Virginia. Is it pos-

sible that Matthew Fountain Maury has

never had a statue?

Mr. Daves introduced a bill defining

lard. Lard is an oleaginous substance,

which, combined with yellow ochre,

produces Washington butter.

Mr. Chandler made one of his elo-

quent speeches yesterday in the Senate.

In Reply to Mr. George, Mr. Chandler

rose and said, with great impressiveness:

"I do not hear the Senator."

In the House Mr. Vandever intro-

duced a bill allowing pensioners arti-

ficial eyes. False teeth, trusses and ear

trumpets, what's the matter with them?

Mr. Robertson in the House intro-

duced a bill to reorganize the band of

the United States Military Academy.

It appears that Herr Volschlagel's bicep

viol has been out of tune for several

years.

Mr. Covert introduced a bill in the

House to improve the efficiency of the

militia. By discharge?

Mr. Burrows in the House appeared

with a bill to provide a monument for

Isabella I. of Spain. Mr. Burrows

thus places himself at the head of a

great popular American movement.

ANOTHER WONDER.

The eighth wonder of the world has been

found. Living about twenty miles from

Columbia, S. C., is an aged lady who,

for the last forty years, according to a Phila-

delphia Times correspondent, has had a

snake in her left upper arm. When first

noticed, forty years ago, it was very small,

but it has now grown to be about one foot

in length.

It lies in a shape, with the tail and head

projecting to the elbow. It is just beneath

the skin and can be plainly seen. The scales

of the snake can also be felt, and when

much disturbed a slight movement can

be seen about the head and tail.

The possessor of the strange pet has al-

ways been unwilling to have the serpent

cut out, but has consented to allow it to

be done after death. How the snake ever

found its home in such a place is not

known, but it is known that the lady was

born with a snake about forty years ago.

It should be added that the eighth wonder

referred to is not the old woman, nor is it

the snake; it is the correspondent.

THE JAPANESE ARE MAKING WONDERFUL

advances toward civilization. Their

monthly reports show that nearly forty per

cent of the persons who marry are after-

ward divorced by the courts. If Chicago

doesn't quit chasing off after foreign lands

to-morrow and world's fairs to hold and get

back to her regular business, some pagan

nation may yet snatch from us our proud

title of land of the free.

OTIS BROTHERS, THE NEW YORK ELEVATOR

manufacturers, have had to sue Gustav

Eiffel in Paris for the price of the elevators

which they placed in his tower. We don't

know much about the merits of the case;

but at this great distance it is safe, perhaps,

to say that Gustav Eiffel refused to pay

for the elevators because they came so high.

THE NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE

has resolved to begin its sessions at 7 o'clock

in the morning, a local paper says: "To do

this the members must rise before day-

light." Is our esteemed contemporary

so sure the members are in bed by that

hour. This 7 o'clock session may be a

matter of convenience.

THE ESTEEMED NEW YORK TRIBUNE

assures us that roasted coffee is much better

disinfectant than most of the bad-smelling

SOUTHERN BEAUTIES

Four representative Southern women

stood in the spacious parlors at the Metro-

politan yesterday afternoon surrounded by

a host of admirers, who made the recep-

tion of Mrs. Blanchard of Louisiana a

success in every sense of the word. As-

tending the hostess in entertaining her guests

were Mrs. W. H. Perry of South Carolina,

Mrs. Barnes of Georgia and Mrs. Bankhead

of Alabama, while Colonel Peter Donan of

Louisiana presided at the table. The recep-

tions at the Metropolitan are always

noted for bringing together people from all

parts of the sunny South, and yesterday

formed no exception to the rule, the conse-

quence being an enjoyable reunion of many

old friends from that section.

Mrs. Blanchard always made it a point to have

young ladies assist her at her receptions who

represent different parts of the South, and

in the group of rosebuds who surrounded

her yesterday were some of the beauties

for which that part of the country is noted.

Miss Taylor, from the State of Georgia,

K. K., and a typical Blue Grass belle, pre-

sided at the daintily spread lunch table, and

her grace and beauty made her conspicu-

ous, even in an assembly of young women

renowned for their loveliness. In a recep-

tion of great grace, delicate courage

and refinement, she presided over the

brown-eyed brunettes and golden vol-

utes, so famous for their loveliness, and the

regular features of a Grecian cast were the

admiration even of the ladies in attendance.

Miss Pattle Harris of Virginia, a petite

brunette, was a striking contrast to Miss

Thompson, and her Greek costume of

white and gold, with a general